ing power, for taking various measures pertaining to sick industrial companies, falling within the purview of the Act.

(x) A reduction in the rate of excise duty on paper and paperboard manufactured by small paper mills having a production upto 24,000 tonnes per annum, by Rs. 100/- per tonne from the existing rate for each of the existing slabs has been announced in the recent Budget.

Visit of Arab and Palestinian delegation

1283. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of Arab and Palestinian businessmen recently visited India and offered export finances to push Indian Products in the International Market;

(b) whether the delegation has also offered to set up Joint Ventures in Electronics, Petroleum, Industries and Mining in India; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A delegation of Palestinian and Arab business leaders led by Dr. Nabil Shaath, Political Adviser to the PLO Chairman visited India in February, 1988 as part of a programme to have a look at the achievements of India and to explore the possibilities of Arab-Indian Economic and Business Co-operation. The programme of the delegation was co-ordinated by the Tata Management and Training Centre, Pune. The Arab team, during discussions offered to assist India in pushing her exports to Middle East and West Asian countries. The delegation further offered to set up industries in India with financial support to produce goods for export to other countries. Areas like forestry, mining and cash crops were suggested for possible cooperation. No specific proposals were, however, made by the delegation.

Maruti 1000 cc cars

1284. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 716 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti Udyog Limited is likely to launch the 1000 cc cars in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of these cars and by when the booking for these cars will commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Maruti Udyog Ltd. have submitted a proposal to Government for manufacturing a 1000cc car with a separate luggage boot. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Increase in the Trade margin

1285. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the trade margin of wholesalers and retailers for medicines;

(b) what was the trade margin allowed under DPCO 1979 and what